

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff

*These questions were created by Provo City Library.*

1. What was it like to read a book composed entirely of letters? What do letters offer that no other form of writing can convey?
2. Describe Helene's Hanff's and Frank Doel's personality.
3. If Helene Hanff and Frank Doel were to meet on the street do you think they would be friends? Why or why not?
4. When Helene realized that the staff at Marks & Co. Booksellers were on rations, how did Helene respond? Would you have done the same? Why or why not?
5. What role did books play in the relationship of Helene and the staff at Marks & Co Booksellers?
6. What authors or titles of books mentioned in *84, Charing Cross Road* intrigued you?
7. Helene kept delaying her trip to London. Do you think it was on purpose, why or why not?
8. What do think about the quote: "I remember years ago a guy I knew told me that people going to England find exactly what they go looking for. I said I'd go looking for the England of English literature, and he nodded and said: 'It's there.'" (page 94)
9. Did the book end the way you wanted it to? Why or why not? Even though it is a true story, how would you have changed it?
10. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?